

Attachment 4



Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council

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Sept. 2, 1999

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Rebecca Wodder
President
American Rivers

Dr. John G. Rogers
Acting Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C St., N.W., MS 3012
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear John,

Thank you very much for your August 17 letter.

The Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council stands ready, as requested in your letter, to facilitate an open, inclusive national process to provide recommendations regarding the future of the National Fish Hatchery System. To this process, the Council will bring its financial, staff and volunteer resources, as well as its demonstrated ability to conduct successful national, facilitated discussions and to offer recommendations about issues related to aquatic resource conservation policy.

The Council recognizes that this process is necessary to address the long-term needs and purposes of the National Fish Hatchery System. The Council believes that creating a new, comprehensive, consensus-based blueprint for the hatchery system and developing a method to move the system from its current state toward a new strategic plan will be at the heart of this process. This process will build on previous years' research, relevant Service and other documents, recommendations and input from stakeholders, the "three As" evaluation and the General Accounting Office review. In addition, the Council is looking forward to interacting frequently with the Service's Fisheries Program's work groups tasked with assembling data and other information about the National Fish Hatchery System.

The Council is now developing a work plan to carry out this task in a way that will conform to your request for a full report and final recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior by August 2000, with an interim report available by March 1, 2000. Once it is completed, the work plan will be shared with you and members of your staff.

The Council is eager to begin work on this important topic and will provide you with regular updates as we embark on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen Sevier". Below the signature, the letters "HSP" are written in a small, blocky font.

Helen Sevier
Chair, SFBPC